1.3 Anticipated income:

(a) In Normal Areas

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33VS of the cost

(b) In Hilly, Tribal Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria upgrading/opening Department Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas

The Minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 480(K- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

Postal Tariff hike on books

2654. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would agree to roll back postal tariff hike on books; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) the total deficit of the Department of Posts for the year 2001-2002 (Projection) is about Rs. 1537 crores. The high deficit of the Department is due to continuous increase in the cost of operations which are largely manual and periodical increase due to revision of salaries, wages, dcarness allowance etc. from time to time add to the deficit. Even though some postal rates are revised from time to time, the percentage of increase in revenue is mostly far less than the percentage of increase in the expenditure incurred in providing the services. Consequently, operational cost of postal services has been increasing progressively and this has been a cause for concern.

Even though the postal service is an important element of the socio-economic infrastructure, all the services do not primarily subserve social purpose. While the Department has consistently followed the policies of subsidizing the services which are predominantly fulfilling social obligations, in respect of services which are mostly used for business commercial purposes, there is justification for raising tariffs to generate revenue for cross-subsidizing the socially useful services. Keeping in view the urgent need for reducing the deficit of the department and also the necessity for generating additional revenues to modernize the services for meeting the needs of customers, revision of postal rates from time to time is unavoidable.

Quota for providing telephone connections in Mainpuri

†2655. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether quota of providing telephone connections as per target has not been completed by March in Mainpuri due to negligence of the present Telecommunication Manager, Mainpuri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even the work of laying of cable has not been completed in time;

(d) the number of contracts awarded during the last two years, date-wise, the works which have been completed during the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.